

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6847**

**BILL NUMBER:** SB 350

**NOTE PREPARED:** Dec 29, 2014

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** East Chicago school board.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Sen. Randolph

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:**     **GENERAL**  
                              **DEDICATED**  
                              **FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** Local

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill reduces the number of members of the governing body of the School City of East Chicago from nine to five, beginning January 1, 2017. It provides that if a vacancy occurs on the governing body before January 1, 2017, the vacancy shall not be filled unless the vacancy reduces the number of members to fewer than five.

It provides that three members of the governing body are elected at large by the voters of the city, one member is appointed by the city executive, and one member is appointed by the city legislative body.

It repeals and provides for the expiration of statutes consistent with the new structure of the governing body.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2015.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:**

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** *Summary:* Election ballots in the School City of East Chicago (SCEC) may have to be modified to reflect the new structure of the governing body. Reformatting ballots would minimally affect Lake County ballot expenditures.

Decreasing the number of members of the governing body by four would also decrease the total amount of the annual stipend awarded to members by up to about \$8,000, plus any per diem expenditures.

The workload of the office of the Clerk of the Lake Circuit Court (which processes nomination petitions from school district candidates) may decrease.

Under the bill, the six members of the governing body currently representing the school districts would be replaced by two appointed members. The impact of the new structure on the operation of the governing body is unknown at this time.

*Additional Information:* Under current law, the governing body of the SCEC consists of nine elected members: one from each of the six school districts and three at-large members. Candidates have to file their petitions with the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court. School board members are entitled to per diem and a stipend of up to \$2,000 annually.

Under this bill beginning in 2017, the number of members of the governing body would be reduced from nine to five. Members would no longer be specifically elected from each school district. The number of at-large members would remain at three. Of the remaining two members, one would be appointed by the city executive, and one by the city legislative body.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:**

**Local Agencies Affected:** School City of East Chicago; Office of the Clerk of the Lake Circuit Court; City executive, City of East Chicago; Legislative body, City of East Chicago.

**Information Sources:**

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